Meeting of Indian sugar mills Association with Food Secretary

916. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether representatives of Indian Sugar Mills Association in a meeting with Food Secretary on 15th September, 1994, warned that total sugar production this season would be only 12 million tonnes as against estimated consumption of 12.5 m. tonnes;

(b) if so, what steps are contemplated to bridge the gap without allowing increase in prices; and

(c) whether the sugar lobby also indicated that import of sugar can be totally avoided if, sugar is made totally free of control and that production can go up to 140 million tonnes, if so, what was Government reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) As per information available, the representatives of Indian Sugar Mills Association have not met the Food Secretary on 15-9-1994.

(b) With the estimate carry-over stocks of idigenous sugar at the beginning of the season 1994-95 and balance stock of sugar eariler imported, alongwith the production during the season, it is expected that there would be sufficient availability of sugar to meet the internal consumption during the season 1994-95.

(c) Indian Sugar Mills Association have been representing for de-control of sugar. However, for the present, the Government intends to continue the existing policy of partial control with a dual pricing system.

Overflowing stock of foodgrains in Government godowns

917. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are huge stocks of foodgrains in Government godowns;

(b) whether Government have decided to permit export of rice and wheat to redce the over-flowing stocks; and

(c) what quantity of foodgrains will be allowed for export?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The stock position of foodgrains in the country is comfortable. The position of stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool as on 1st February, 1995 was as under:—

(Figures in Lakh Tonnes)

As on	Rice	Wheat	Total
1.2.95 (P)	184.36	115.76	300.12

(P)=Provisional

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Export-Import Policy of the Government allow the export of 5 lakh MTs of non-Durum wheat without Minimum Export Price from the open market during the 1994-95 and FCI is also eligible to export wheat within the said ceiling subject to certain conditions. The FCI has also been authorised to sell initially 50,000 MTs of wheat from the Central Pool to the STC and a quantity of 2.5 lakh tonnes to MMTC at the pre-